



Mammal of the Month

The Red Fox

The **Red Fox (*Vulpes vulpes*)** is our only wild member of the dog family.

They are not fussy eaters and will happily eat small mammals, birds, frogs, worms as well as berries and fruit!

Foxes that live in towns and cities may even scavenge in bins to look for scraps.

Foxes breed locally to Childwall Golf Club as adults and cubs have been spotted, quite regularly, around the 12th and 13th holes. You will often see 'fox paw prints' in the bunkers by the 12th green.

A male fox, called a dog, makes a barking noise whereas the females, called vixens make a spine-chilling scream sound.

The Red fox is the largest of the true foxes and one of the most widely distributed, however, they are absent from the Channel Islands, the Isles of Scilly, Scottish islands and the Isle of Man.

Red foxes live in a burrow system called an 'earth'. The burrows are divided into a den and temporary burrows. They scent-mark their territorial borders with urine, creating a very strong, recognisable odour. They also have scent glands on their feet to mark well-used trails so they can follow them easily at night.

Foxes produce dog-like droppings that are usually pointy at one end and full of fur, feathers, tiny bones, seeds and berries.



A medium-sized dog, the red fox is orangey-red above, white below, with black tips to the ears, dark brown feet and a white tip to the bushy, orange tail (known as the 'brush')



Foxes have been spotted around the 12th and 13th holes at CGC. They often leave their paw prints in the bunkers

(Above left photo courtesy of Frank Sanderson)



Look out for Fox poo near the 12th and 13th holes. It has a distinctive 'musky' smell (known as 'scat')